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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**29 MARCH 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Bakersfield – UAS Caught Smuggling Drugs, Contraband to Inmates

(U) Officials in California are reporting an increase in UAS usage above prisons throughout the state, recently acknowledging that the unmanned quadcopters have been used to deliver contraband into open recreation yards below — including a variety of illegal narcotics. In a statement, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said it "has seen a significant rise in unauthorized drones on prison property statewide in the past year." The agency is currently looking into repeated drone intrusions at a correctional facility near Bakersfield, where investigators concluded: "Inmates have figured out ingenious ways to introduce contraband into Kern Valley State Prison."

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [The Daily Wire](#)

(U) Visalia – Gang Leader Arraigned on Murder Counts in Largest Criminal Case in Tulare History

(U) A Norteño gang leader charged with murdering five people in Tulare County has been arraigned on 16 felony counts. Pedro "Pistol Pete" Sanchez, 34, is charged with five counts of first-degree murder for the 2014 and 2015 slayings of Tonya Huff, Noe Martinez, Matthew Villegas, Manuel Gonzalez and Alfonso Pena outside Porterville and Visalia. Sanchez, of Lindsay, was arrested during a multi-agency gang sweep in 2015 that became the largest criminal case in Tulare County history. He was arraigned on 26 March in the Visalia Division of Tulare County Superior Court after a grand jury handed down an indictment earlier this month.

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [Fresno Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Tip Led to Phoenix Drop House Bust of 34 Immigrants

(U) Phoenix – Federal agents acting on a tip went to a Phoenix house where they found and detained 34 immigrants believed to have entered the United States, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials said yesterday. The 34 immigrants taken into custody included 27 Guatemalans, five Mexicans and two Hondurans, according to a statement from ICE. "We responded to a tip that basically informed us there was a local residence that contained a large group of suspected undocumented immigrants," said Lauren Mack, an ICE spokeswoman. "They dismantled a drop house." Human traffickers typically use drop houses to temporarily house immigrants who have been smuggled into the country while "waiting for transportation to another or a pickup or payment made to a smuggler," Mack said.

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Military Confirms Top al-Qa'ida Leader Killed in Airstrike

(U) Washington – A high-ranking al-Qa'ida official was one of two terrorists killed in a joint US-Libyan airstrike on 24 March in southwestern Libya. US Africa Command confirmed yesterday that the strike, the first of its kind to target al-Qaida in Libya, killed Musa Abu Dawud, who trained members of the Libyan branch of al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Dawud provided AQIM with weapons and

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logistical and financial support, enabling the group to “threaten and attack US and Western interests in the region.”

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [VOA](#)

(U) Maryland – Ransomware Attack Hobbled Baltimore’s Dispatch System

(U) Baltimore – A ransomware attack hobbled Baltimore’s 911 dispatch system over the weekend, a city official confirmed yesterday, prompting a roughly 17-hour shutdown of the automated emergency dispatching system. Late yesterday afternoon, Baltimore’s chief information officer announced that it was caused by “ransomware perpetrators.” “We were able to successfully isolate the threat and ensure that no harm was done to other servers or systems across the city’s network,” said Johnson, who described it as a “limited breach.” The cyberattack in Baltimore prompted a worrying shutdown of automated emergency dispatching from early 25 March into 26 March and required the transition of the critical 911 service to manual mode.

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Washington – Boeing Possibly Hit by WannaCry Malware Attack

(U) Seattle – Boeing said yesterday that it was hit by a WannaCry cyberattack that struck thousands of computer systems in more than 70 countries around the world last year. In an internal memo, Mike VanderWel, chief engineer of Boeing Commercial Airplane production engineering, said the attack was “metastasizing” and he worried it could spread to Boeing’s production systems and airline software. In a statement yesterday evening, Boeing played down the attack and said it was limited in scope and that it had not affected the company’s production lines.

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [The New York Times](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) France – Driver Tries to Hit Soldiers with Vehicle in French Alps**

(U) Paris – A man shouted death threats from his car window at French soldiers out for a morning jog in the French Alps, then he tried and failed to run several of them over, French officials said today. According to the head of the soldiers’ brigade, Colonel Alain Didier, a suspect is “allegedly” now in custody. Didier said four soldiers were targeted in the attempted car attack and none sustained injuries and the motives of the attempted attack are unclear. French authorities are on high alert as the incident occurred one week after an Islamic extremist shot at police returning from jogging in southern France, before taking hostages in a supermarket in an attack that claimed four lives.

SOURCE: 29 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Italy – Italian Anti-Terrorism Police Arrest Moroccan Planning Truck Attack

(U) Rome – Italian anti-terrorism police yesterday, arrested an Italian citizen of Moroccan origin, Elmahdi Halili, 23, who they said was an Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) sympathizer planning a truck attack. It was the latest arrests this month involving suspected supporters of Islamist terrorism and came as Italy stepped up the number of foreigners it expels. Police said Halili received a two-year suspended prison term in 2015 for “instigating terrorism” by running a website praising ISIS and hailing the attacks it or its supporters perpetrated in Europe.

SOURCE: 28 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Italy – Italian Anti-Terrorism Police Arrest Five Linked to Berlin Christmas Attacker

(U) Rome – Italian police have arrested five people connected to Anis Amri, the Tunisian who carried out the 2016 Berlin Christmas market truck attack and who was later killed in a shootout with police in Italy. In a statement today, police said one of the five was believed to have procured the fake Italian identity

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papers that allowed Amri, a failed asylum-seeker, to move around Europe. Amri killed 12 people when he hijacked a truck and drove it into a crowded Berlin Christmas market on 19 December, 2016. The attack was later claimed by ISIS. Using fake documents, he fled to Italy and died in a shootout with police near Milan four days later.

SOURCE: 29 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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